

heard expressed by many opponents of this bill for the growing number of Americans who have no health insurance. We agree that this is a serious problem, and look forward to working with those Senators to address it as soon as possible.

The effort to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights now returns to the House.

Last year, 68 House Republicans joined Democrats to pass a strong patient protection bill very much like this one. We urge our colleagues in the House to resist the special interests one more time. Together, we can send a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights to President Bush.

We hope that when that happens, the President will reconsider his threatened veto. We hope he will remember the promise he made last fall to the American people to pass a national Patients' Bill of Rights.

Texas has proven that we can protect patients' rights—without dramatically increasing premiums. It is time—it is past time—to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights to protect all insured Americans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 220 Leg.]

#### YEAS—59

Akaka	Dodd	McCain
Baucus	Dorgan	Mikulski
Bayh	Durbin	Miller
Biden	Edwards	Murray
Bingaman	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Breaux	Fitzgerald	Reed
Byrd	Graham	Reid
Cantwell	Harkin	Rockefeller
Carnahan	Hollings	Sarbanes
Carper	Inouye	Schumer
Chafee	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Kennedy	Snowe
Clinton	Kerry	Specter
Collins	Kohl	Stabenow
Conrad	Landrieu	Torricelli
Corzine	Leahy	Warner
Daschle	Levin	Wellstone
Dayton	Lieberman	Wyden
DeWine	Lincoln	

#### NAYS—36

Allard	Burns	Frist
Allen	Cochran	Grassley
Bennett	Craig	Gregg
Bond	Crapo	Hagel
Brownback	Ensign	Hatch
Bunning	Enzi	Helms

Hutchinson	McConnell	Smith (NH)
Hutchison	Nickles	Stevens
Inhofe	Roberts	Thomas
Jeffords	Santorum	Thompson
Kyl	Sessions	Thurmond
Lugar	Shelby	Voinovich

#### NOT VOTING—5

Campbell	Gramm	Murkowski
Domenici	Lott	

The bill (S. 1052), as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

#### AMENDMENT NO. 860

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator KENNEDY and Senator GREGG, the managers of this bill, and me, I send this managers' amendment to the desk and ask unanimous consent it be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 860) was agreed to.

(The text of the amendment is located in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 1668

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1668, which is now at the desk; that the bill be read three times, passed; and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. NICKLES. Reserving the right to object, I will object on behalf of other Members. This bill has not yet been referred to committee. I personally have no objection to the bill, and I expect I will be supportive of it, but it should be referred to the committee so interested Members who have an interest in this particular issue can vet it, maybe improve it, maybe we can pass it. I hope we can pass it as expeditiously as possible.

At this time I object.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, the distinguished Republican whip, I regret this, especially in that I have just completed reading John Adams, the new book out. It is a wonderful book. I recommend it to my friend.

I regret there is an objection to clearing this legislation. This bill, as my friend indicated, authorizes the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor former President John Adams and his legacy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I share my colleague's enthusiasm, both for President Adams and also for David McCullough's book. He is a great historian. I have not finished it. I started it. I look forward to completing it and learning a little bit more about the his-

tory of one of America's great Presidents, one of our real founding patriots.

Again, this is going to be referred to the Energy Committee where I and others, I think, will try to be very supportive in a very quick and timely fashion so the entire Senate can, hopefully, vote on this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with, and I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SHINE SOME LIGHT ON THE BLUE SLIP PROCESS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, we are all waiting for the majority leader to come to the floor and deliver the reorganization message. As part of that, I believe he is going to announce that Senator LEAHY, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, is going to make public the blue slip process.

As a member of that committee, I would like to take a few moments and make a few comments about my experience with the blue slip—in essence, what I think about it.

For those who do not know what the blue slip is, it is a process by which a Member can essentially blackball a judge from his or her State when that Member has some reason to do so.

Why would I object so much? I object so much because there is a history of this kind of thing. Historically, many private clubs and organizations have enabled their board of directors to deliver what is called a blackball to keep out someone they don't want in their club or organization. We all know it has happened. For some of us, it has even happened to us.

The usual practice was, and still is in instances, to prevent someone of a different race or religion from gaining access to that organization or club. This is essentially what the blue slip process is all about.

The U.S. Senate is not a private institution. We are a public democracy. I have come to believe the blue slip should hold no place in this body. At the very least, the use of a blue slip to stop a nominee, to prevent a hearing and therefore prevent a confirmation, should be made public. I am pleased to support my chairman, PAT LEAHY, and the Judiciary Committee in that regard.

Under our current procedure, though, any Member of this Senate, by returning a negative blue slip on a home State nominee, or simply by not returning the blue slip at all, can stop a